

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, February 19, 2014, with the following members in attendance:

William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman
William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr. Secretary
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer
Robert Emerson

Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

Absent: Mr. Peter Martin, and Mr. Robert F. Garey.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Kathi Spangler, and Cathy Mesick.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski.

Vice Chairman Vanderwende opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Scott Blaier informed the Board that we have a total of 1,210 farms in preservation districts totaling 167,194 acres, with a total of 754 farms under agricultural easements totaling 110,954 acres at a cost of \$198,780,209. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. Austin Short informed the Board that two Round 17 easements settled since the last meeting. Of the remaining Round 17 properties that have not settled, there are five properties that still need federal review; however, NRCS's operating funds were frozen upon passage of the Farm Bill until each state receives their apportionment, so these settlements may be further delayed.

II. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short informed the Board that it appears the remaining loan from Round 3 (Bonniwell) may settle by the end of March. Staff also received the sales contract for the Tull application (Round 4).

III. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that 151 of the total 440 Federal parcels have been visited. After all Federal parcels are visited, then the non-federal parcels will be visited.

IV. District Eligibility & Final Approval (Contingent Sale):

1. El & Ma Isaacs Family Farm Limited Partnership District, ID#S-14-01-274. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval contingent upon sale, the El & Ma Isaacs Family Farm Limited Partnership District, seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. District Eligibility:

1. Rust Farm District, ID#S-13-12-270. After discussion, **Allen Messick moved to accept for eligibility the Rust Farm District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Tuskey District, ID#S-13-12-273. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility the Tuskey District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Expansion Eligibility and Final Approval (Contingent Sale):

1. Ward Farm Expansion of the Collins Acres District, ID#S-13-12-065R. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Ward Farm Expansion of the Collins Acres District, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Hitch Farm Expansion of the Howard T. West memorial District, ID#S-14-01-091G. After discussion, **Lisa Embert moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Hitch Farm Expansion of the Howard T. West Memorial District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Expansion Eligibility and Final Approval:

1. Megonigal Farms Expansion of the Gallo District, ID#K-13-12-098D. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Megonigal Farms Expansion of the Gallo District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Dawkins Family Farm Expansion of the Oak Hill Tract District, ID#N-13-11-131F. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Dawkins Family Farm Expansion of the Oak Hill Tract District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

VIII. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Expansions and Districts.

IX. Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

X. Minutes:

Vice Chairman Vanderwende asked if there were any comments or changes to the January 15, 2014 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Chip Narvel moved to approve the January minutes, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

XI. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of January 31, 2014, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of January 31, 2014, \$62,279.56 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$18.22 and license plates income was \$525.00. Expenditures for the month of January totaled \$29,739.09. After discussion, **Robert Emerson moved to accept the January financial statement as presented, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

XII. Executive Session:

It was indicated by Mr. Parkowski that there was no need for an Executive Session.

XIII. Other Business:

1. Carl P. King, Jr. Expansion, ID#S-97-02-028L
Del DOT Right-of-Way Easement Request.

Mr. Milton Melendez informed the Board that Del DOT has requested this to be moved to our March meeting. Del DOT needed more time with the landowner before bringing this request to the Foundation.

Austin Short announced that the Department's FY'15 Bond Bill Hearing is Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at Legislative Hall.

Mr. Short also informed the Board that he provided an overview of the Aglands Program to Sussex County Council on January 21, but that Council decided to not provide any funding for Round 18. Mr. Short thanked William Vanderwende and Allen Messick for attending the Council meeting.

Mr. Parkowski let the Board know that the survey contracts for PDR Round 18 selections have been bid.

Austin Short and staff will finalize the list of eligible properties for PDR Round 19 this week.

Secretary Kee summarized the Department's FY'15 Joint Finance Committee Hearing.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on March 19, 2014 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Vanderwende
Vice Chairman